

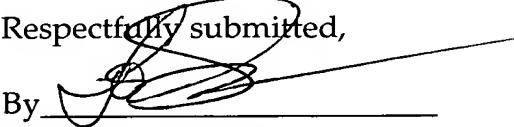
**REMARKS**

The present application is in condition for allowance except for certain formal matters. Specifically, claims 4, 10, 16, 22, and 28 are objected to because there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said enciphered image data." Claims 4, 10, 16, 22, and 28 have been amended to correct any perceived lack of antecedent basis. In view of the above amendment to the claims reconsideration by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: January 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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